

Talking Points for ADCI
5 March 1987

Libyan Stability

Libyan leader Mu'ammarr Qadhafi retains power despite an almost complete lack of support among the armed forces, religious groups, and the general population. Significant instability followed the US airstrikes in April 1986, but Qadhafi shored up his domestic position through personnel changes and his pervasive and ruthless security apparatus remains loyal. We perceive no immediate threat to Qadhafi's position from the demoralized population or army, but his regime continues to face serious vulnerabilities:

--The Libyan economy is entering its sixth straight year of decline, caused by low oil prices, mismanagement, Qadhafi's radical policies, and the war in Chad; nonetheless, Libyan reserves now stand at 7.2 billion.

--The growing power and abuses of the Revolutionary Committees--Qadhafi's most fervent and radical supporters--have alienated most segments of society especially the once-influential officer corps. [REDACTED]

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[redacted]

Military discontent is increasing, fueled by the unpopular campaign in Chad. The war has cost the Libyans nearly 1,000 casualties since November 1986, and [redacted]

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[redacted] duty there is extremely unpopular.

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-- The pilot and copilot of a Libyan L-100 transport defected to Egypt this week. The pilot, a black Lieutenant Colonel, complained of discrimination in the Libyan armed forces and of property seizures ordered by Qadhafi's regime,

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-- [redacted]
[redacted] thousands of Libyans who have been ordered to report to their reserve units have gone into hiding rather than risk being sent to Chad.

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[redacted] desertions
are high [redacted]

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-- Despite these difficulties, however, we have no evidence that dissatisfaction within the military has yet coalesced into an organized and viable threat to Qadhafi's regime. Contributing to Qadhafi's protection is the fact that his Chad force--the only Libyan Army units with immediate

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[REDACTED]

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access to ammunition--is far removed from his
headquarters. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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